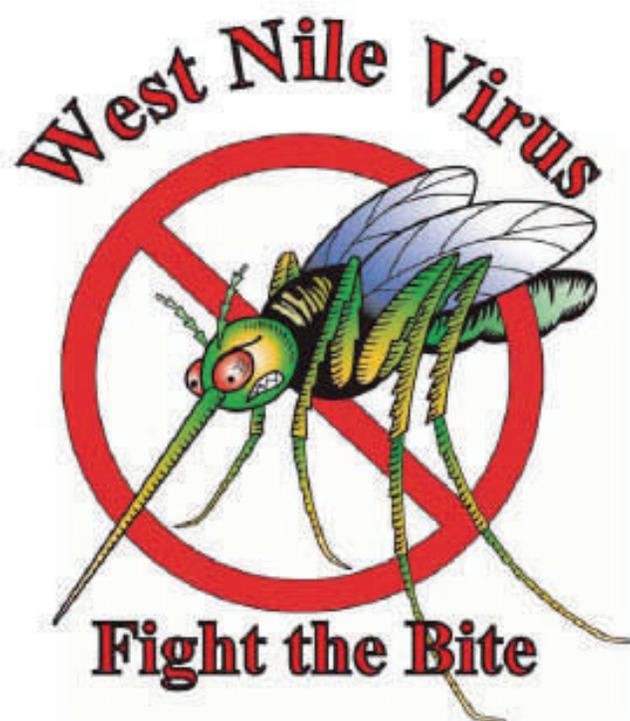


MOSQUITO ACTIVITY BOOK



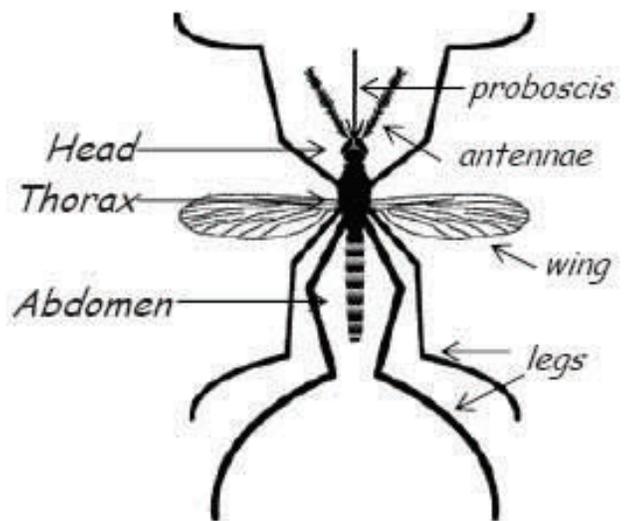
www.SDFightTheBite.com

**County of San Diego
Vector Control Program
9325 Hazard Way
San Diego, CA 92123
888-551-INFO (4636)**

What is a mosquito?

Mosquitoes (mis-KEET-ohs) are insects. This means they have no backbone, and are divided into three parts: the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. The head has its eyes, proboscis (pro-BAH-skis), and one pair of antennae. The thorax has three pairs of legs and usually two pairs of wings. The abdomen contains the guts and reproductive organs.

Mosquito Anatomy



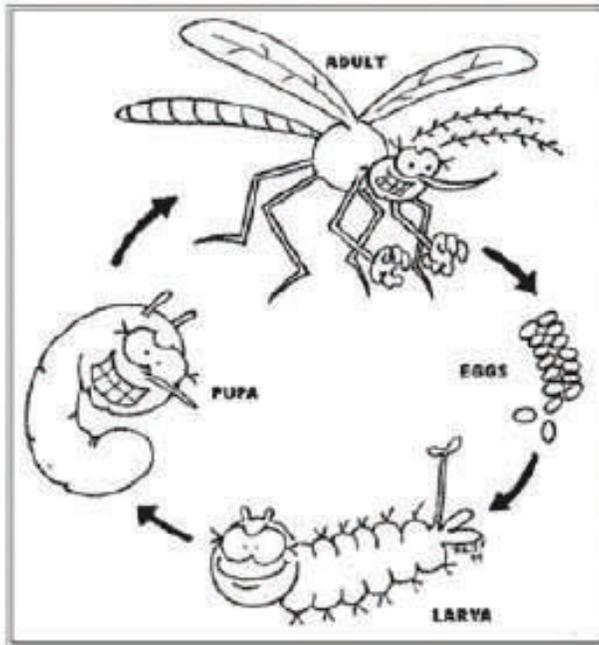
What do they eat?

Only female mosquitoes bite! Male mosquitoes drink fruit nectar. Female mosquitoes suck the blood of living animals and humans so they have enough nutrients to make their eggs. Besides humans, they bite all sorts of animals like birds, horses, dogs, cats, and snakes!



A female mosquito enjoying her dinner.

Mosquito Life Cycle



The **EGG** stage: Female mosquitoes lay their eggs in water. The eggs take about 2 to 3 days to hatch.

The **LARVA** stage: When the eggs hatch, the critters that come out are called larva. Groups of larva, called larvae, look like tiny wiggling worms in the water.

The **PUPA** stage: After shedding their skins three times, the larvae turn into pupae. Mosquitoes do not eat anything in this stage.

Metamorphosis is a change in form or structure of an animal. A mosquito goes through 4 different stages in its life!

The **ADULT** stage: The adult comes out of the pupa stage in about **2 to 7 days**. The average mosquito will live for about 2 weeks. After the female mates and has a blood meal, she is ready to lay her eggs.

Mosquito Bites

When mosquitoes bite your skin, you may get an itchy bump in its place. That is because when a mosquito bites us to drink our **blood**, it has to be sure that the blood keeps on flowing out of us. Mosquito saliva is an anti-coagulant, which keeps our blood from clotting. Most of us are allergic to mosquito saliva. That's why mosquito bites itch! Don't **scratch** too much, though, because then you might get a rash!



This mosquito has filled itself up with blood.

Prevent and Protect Yourself from Mosquito Bites!

Prevent!

- Dump out water that's been sitting around for more than **3 days**.
- Female mosquitoes only need **half an inch** of standing water to lay eggs, so make sure there's no water lying around!
- **Birdbaths**, empty pails, buckets, **tires**, and **plant saucers** are perfect places for mosquitoes to lay their eggs!



Birdbath



Kiddie Pool

- Have a kiddie pool? Make sure to dump out or change the water after a week.
- If you have a big swimming pool, keep an eye out so it doesn't turn green. Mosquitoes *love* green swimming pools! Yuck!
- If you have pets, make sure to empty out their water dishes every few days.
- Have a pond or fountain in your back yard? Ask your parents to throw some **mosquito fish** into the water. Mosquito fish love to eat mosquito larva!



Pet Dish

Protect!

- Always apply insect **repellent** containing **DEET**, **Picaridin**, or **Oil of lemon eucalyptus** before going outdoors. You should apply it onto any skin that's not covered by your clothing. You can even spray it on top of your clothes for extra protection! Just make sure not to get it in your eyes or mouth!



Repellent

- Wear **light**-colored, long-sleeved shirts and pants when you go outdoors. The long clothing makes it harder for mosquitoes to bite you, and the light colors make it easier for you to see them.
- **Dawn** and **dusk** are the favorite times of mosquitoes to bite, so try to stay **inside** during those times!



Long sleeves and pants

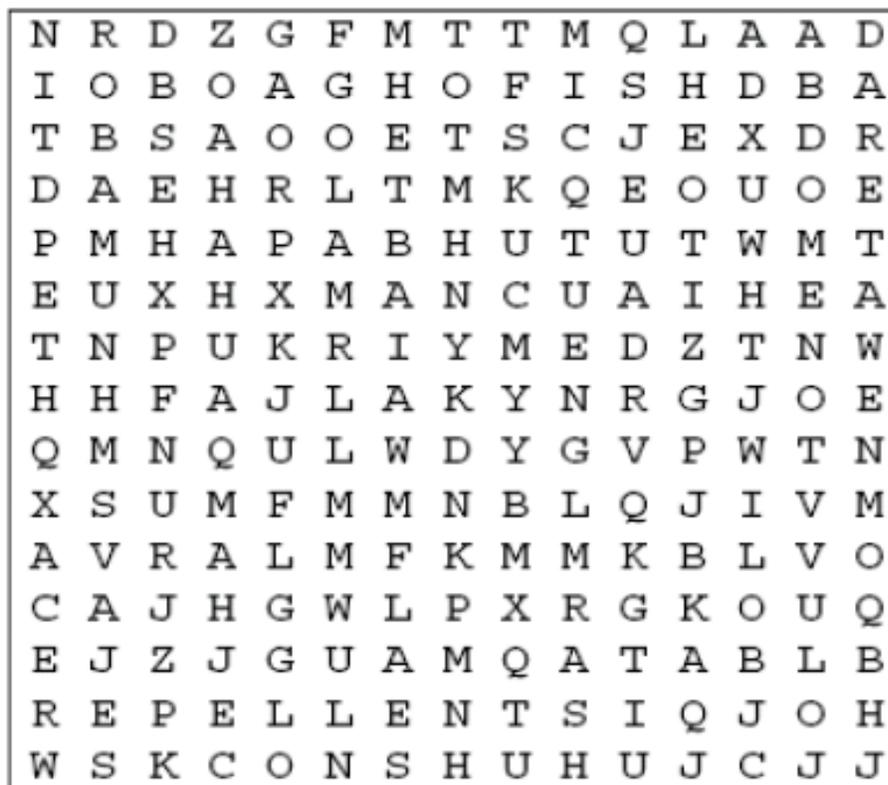
Report!



- Tell your parents to call **888-551-INFO (4636)** if you find any dead birds or mosquito breeding sites!

Mosquito Word Search

Can you find the words in the puzzle? They go up, down, diagonal and backwards!



WORDS

MOSQUITO
LARVA
BITE
REPELLENT
ABDOMEN
FISH
PUPA
RASH
BLOOD
THORAX
WATER
EGG
DEET
HEAD

Protect Yourself!

See if you can unscramble these words to learn how to protect yourself from mosquitoes!

- EREELNLTP** Remember to always apply insect _____ with DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus in it when you play outdoors.
- DIISEN** Stay _____ at dawn and dusk because mosquitoes love to bite at those times.
- GLTIH** Wear _____-colored, long-sleeved shirts and pants outdoors so you can see if mosquitoes land on you.
- LHFA** Mosquitoes only need _____ an inch of standing water to breed.
- NTALP** Empty pails, buckets, and _____ saucers when there is water

Solve the Secret Code

A message about mosquitoes is hidden in the lines below. Use the key to solve the code and reveal the message.

Key:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Answers: Fight the bite; Wear insect repellent; Stay indoors during dawn and dusk; Wear long sleeves and long pants

Mosquitoes in the Yard

Word Search

Are mosquitoes growing in your yard? Search for words that happen to be places where mosquitoes can grow around your house. You can search your own yard, too! If you have any of these things in your yard, be sure to check them for water at least once a week. If you find water, DUMP IT OUT!

Find the words listed below. The words can be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal!

EMPTY CANS
BIRD BATH
TOYS
BUCKETS

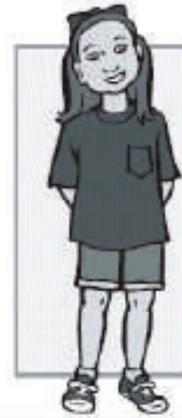
KIDDIE POOL
WHEELBARROW
TREE HOLES
PLANT SAUCER

WATER DISH
TIRE SWING
DRAINS
WATERING CAN

S	R	P	L	J	T	B	I	S	N	P	J	S	C	W
S	K	G	V	O	U	O	E	Y	L	I	D	N	M	B
O	Y	R	B	C	O	L	V	A	Y	O	S	A	H	W
P	C	O	K	X	O	P	N	J	L	I	G	C	B	H
R	B	E	T	H	I	T	E	Y	S	S	C	Y	I	E
O	T	D	E	S	S	T	O	I	A	Q	Z	T	R	E
S	T	E	Q	A	L	W	I	L	D	S	Y	P	D	L
G	R	V	U	G	P	V	O	R	T	D	B	M	B	B
T	T	C	C	P	O	K	A	K	E	N	I	E	A	A
N	E	A	U	N	L	U	F	J	U	S	H	K	T	R
R	N	A	C	G	N	I	R	E	T	A	W	H	H	R
O	F	S	N	I	A	R	D	I	G	U	P	I	H	O
M	Z	E	B	T	L	H	O	E	C	D	W	R	N	W
F	X	K	Y	J	B	O	A	L	V	H	W	E	G	G
W	A	T	E	R	D	I	S	H	K	M	O	D	L	X

Help Anna Through the Maze

Anna needs to dump out all of the containers of standing water where mosquito larvae can grow. Can you help her to get to each container without getting bit by a mosquito?



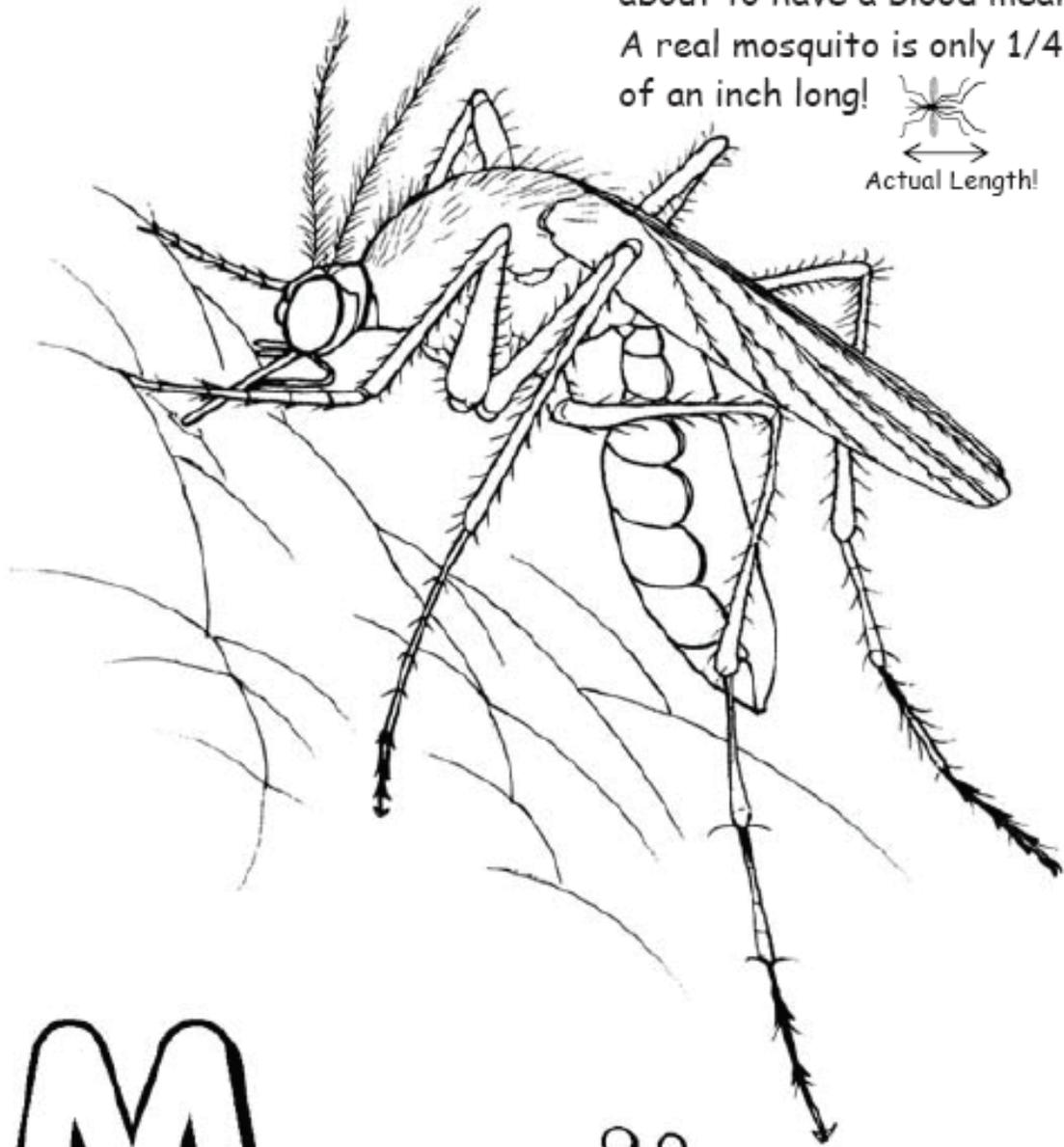
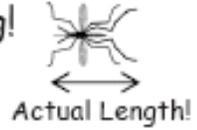
START



FINISH

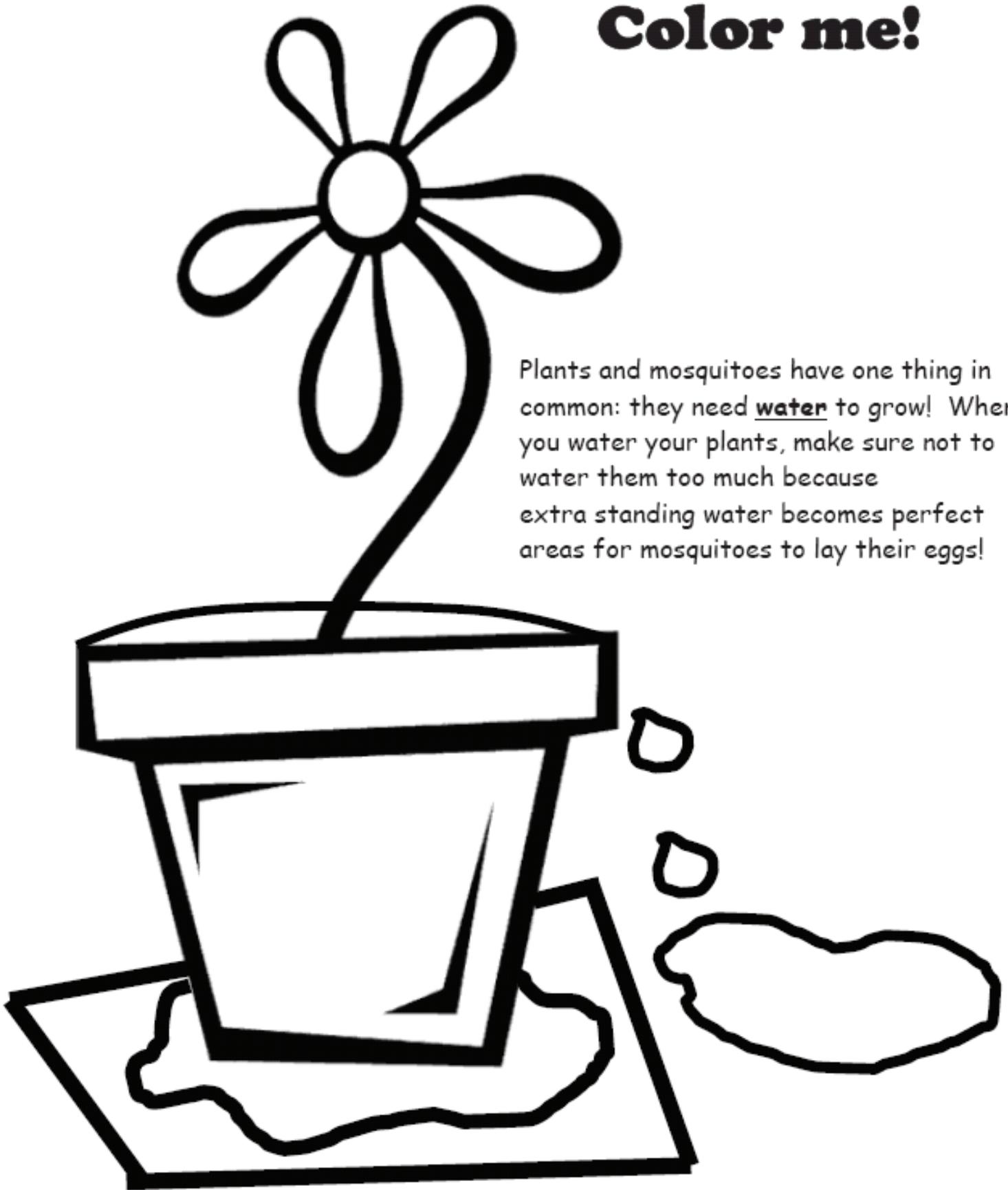
Color me!

This female mosquito is about to have a blood meal. A real mosquito is only 1/4 of an inch long!



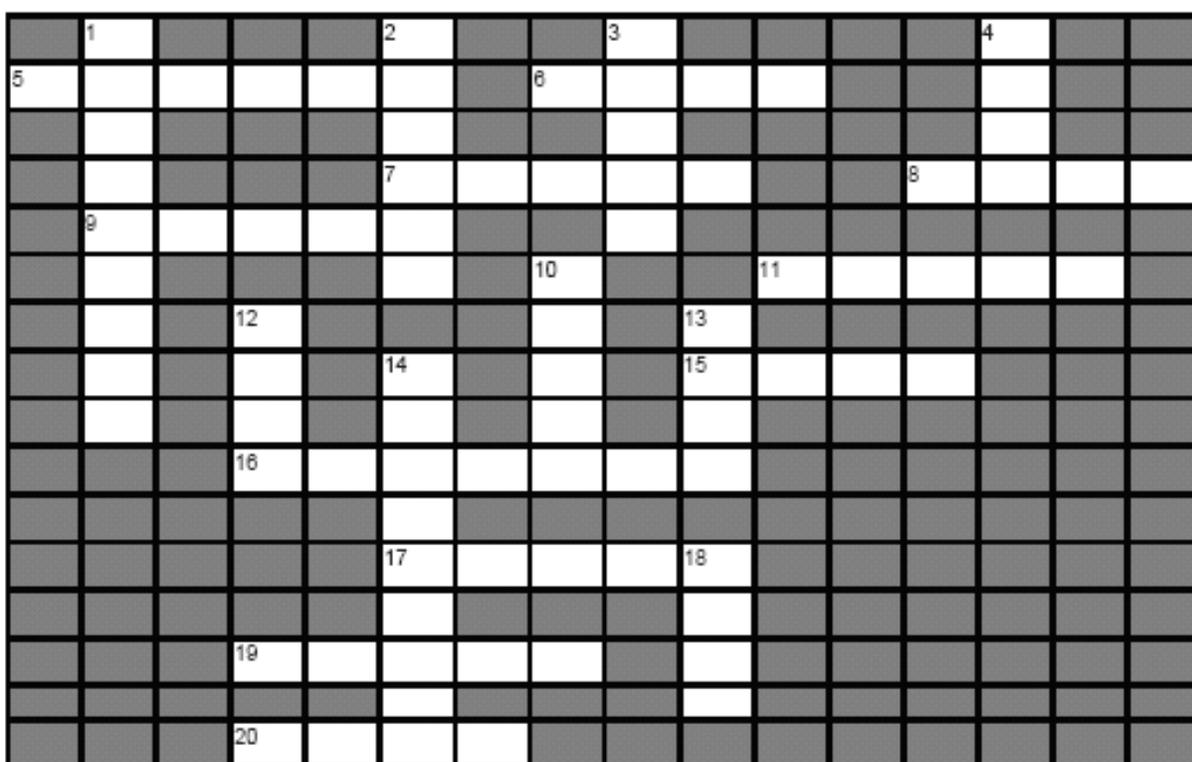
Mosquito

Color me!



Plants and mosquitoes have one thing in common: they need water to grow! When you water your plants, make sure not to water them too much because extra standing water becomes perfect areas for mosquitoes to lay their eggs!

Mosquito Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

5. Only _____ mosquitoes bite you
6. Mosquitoes like to do this to humans
7. A mosquito's body is divided into _____ parts
8. At this time in the morning mosquitoes are most active
9. Second stage of the mosquito life cycle
11. When you go outside you should wear _____-colored clothing so you can see if mosquitoes land on you
19. What mosquitoes need to breed
15. Mosquitoes only need half an _____ of water to breed
16. Most times a mosquito bite makes you want to do this to the bump
17. When mosquitoes bite humans they are sucking this from humans
20. At this time in the late afternoon mosquitoes are most active

DOWN

1. You can apply this to your skin to keep mosquitoes away
2. Male mosquitoes usually drink plant _____
3. These are on cars, but they can also breed mosquitoes if there is water in them
4. Third stage of the mosquito life cycle
10. At this stage of the mosquito lifecycle they are flying and biting
12. Mosquitoes lay 100-200 _____ in water
13. When you put them in ponds and fountains they will eat larvae
14. Birds like to bathe in these and mosquitoes can breed in them
18. In warm weather the entire mosquito lifecycle can be completed in 2-7 _____

WORDS

repellent
 nectar
 tires
 eggs
 fish
 birdbaths
 pupa
 days
 female
 inch
 dusk
 dawn
 light
 larva
 water
 blood
 scratch
 three
 adult
 bite

Mosquito Jokes and Facts!



Q: What has six legs, bites, and talks in code?
A: A morse-quitto!

There are at least 24 different types of mosquitoes in San Diego County!



Q: What's the difference between a mosquito and a fly?
A: Try sewing buttons on a mosquito!

Q: What do you get if you cross the Lone Ranger with an insect?
A: A Masked-quitto!



There are 10 trillion mosquitoes in the United States every year!

Did you know that a female mosquito can lay over 200 eggs at a time? That's a lot of eggs!

Q: Why did the mosquito go to the dentist?
A: To improve her bite!

County of San Diego



Vector Control Program